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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the BOROUGH OF SAINT IVES (Hunts.) FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1946.

To:-

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Saint Ives (Hunts.)

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you this report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Yout obedient Servant,

W. R. GROVE

Medical Officer of Health

The Ridley Press, St. Ives, Hunts.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—
W. R. GROVE, M.D., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—
G. G. YEANDLE, *Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute.*

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	... ...	2,326 acres
Rateable Value	...	£17,181
Value of Penny Rate	...	£67
Number of Inhabited houses (approximately)		900
Population middle 1946	...	3,211

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

		M	F		
LIVE BIRTHS					
(legitimate)	50	32	18	Birth-rate per 1000	
(illegitimate)	1	1	0	of the estimated	
	—	—	—	resident population	15.8
Total	51	33	18		
STILL BIRTHS					
(legitimate)	1	0	1	rate per 1000	
(illegitimate)	0	0	0	population	0.31
DEATHS Total	33	11	22	Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	10.27

Deaths from Puerperal causes :-

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis ...	0	
No. 30 other Puerperal causes	0	
Total	0	0

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age ... ... 0 per 1000 live births

		M	F
All infants per 1000 live births	0	0	0
Legitimate infants per 1000 live births	0	0	0
Illegitimate infants per 1000 Illegitimate live births	1	1	0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ...	4
,, ,, Measles ,, ,,	... ...	0
,, ,, Whooping cough ,,	... ...	0
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	0

As a comparison the Birth-rate and Death-rate for England and Wales during 1945 was:

Birth-rate	19.1
Death-rate	11.5
Deaths under one year per 1000 births was ...	0

SANITARY CONDITIONS

1 (1) WATER.—The Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board from whom the Borough purchase the water supply in bulk, have maintained a good pressure and at no time during the year has there been a shortage.

The rainfall during the year was 5.2 inches above the average and it was not found necessary to restrict the supply in any way. The Water Board treat the supply at source by Chlorination and de-chlorination.

132 Samples have been taken during the 12 months out of which 130 were satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory which were traced to faulty services, these were treated and remedied.

The total comsumption for the year was 33,030,000 gallons which is an increase of 1,777,000 gallons on the previous year.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Apart from the extensions to the New Housing Sites no extensions or alterations have been made to the existing system. Surveys are still being carried out with regard to the provision of a new system of drainage and construction of sewerage works both in conjunction with the neighbouring villages situated in the St. Ives Rural District and also a separate scheme which would deal with the drainage of the Borough area only. As the matter is still one of urgency it is hoped that definite plans for a new system will be agreed upon within a short space of time.

2 RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The River Great Ouse which flows through the Borough and receives the water from several surface water dykes in the area, is controlled by gates which are maintained by the Borough Council, minor repairs have been carried out during the year, no flooding of a serious nature took place during the 12 months.

3 (1) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Chiefly owing to the difficulties of drainage no conversion from pail to water closets have been made during the year, this matter will be materially effected when the new sewage system, which is under consideration, is being constructed. The collection of night soil in the Borough is carried out under contract and no complaints of any importance were received during the year.

(2) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The collection of house refuse is carried out by contract and has worked satisfactory, a twice weekly collection apparently covers the needs of the Borough, very few complaints having been received, all of which were of a minor character. The question of disposal is a difficult problem in view of the fact that an increasing number of tins are collected, however, a considerable tonnage was dumped and covered on waste land by a local contractor.

The collection of saleable salvage is still carried on and although the receipts do not balance the expenditure, the Council feel it is in the interest of the country to carry on as long as requested.

4 SHOPS & OFFICES.—No complaints were received as to the shops and offices and no infringements found during the year.

5 CAMPING SITES.—No area in the Borough is licensed as a camping site and no applications have been received.

6 SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No nuisances have been observered with regard to smoke from premises in the Borough and no complaints were received with regard to same.

7 SWIMMING POOL.—No constructional alterations were carried out to the Swimming Pool which is constructed in such a manner that a flow of water is continually passing through from the main River Great Ouse to a backwater. As in previous years the pool was pumped dry and thoroughly cleansed before the opening of the season. The attendance was very satisfactory in spite of the unfavourable weather.

8 ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—One complaint was received during the year and was dealt with by spraying and fumigation.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—The number of cowsheds and dairies in the district is 8, all of which have been maintained satisfactorily as in previous years the milk retailed in the Borough is largely produced in the St. Ives Rural District area.

(b) MEAT.—No private Slaughter Houses in the Borough have been used for the slaughtering of animals. The Borough Slaughter House which is still occupied by the Ministry of Food continue to use same for area slaughtering. The examination of meat is carried out by officials who are appointed by the County Council.

(c) BAKEHOUSES.—There are three registered bakehouses in the Borough, minor complaints were received and remedied, otherwise they have been maintained in a satisfactory manner.

(d) FACTORIES.—In conjunction with the Factory Inspector minor defects were rectified otherwise they have been maintained in a satisfactory manner.

HOUSING

1 Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 143

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose, 156

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 19

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 23

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 14

2 Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers 44

3 Action under Statutory powers during the year :-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By Owners 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By Owners 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... 0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

4 Housing Act, 1936—Part iv.—Overcrowding :-

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 1

(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 2

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 9

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 2

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 2

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 19

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding 0

(e) The difficulty of alleviating the overcrowding position remains the same and until further accomodation is available in the District no steps can be taken in the matter

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were notifications of the following :-

Scarlet Fever	0
Pneumonia	1
Enteric Fever	0
Whooping Cough	7
Diphtheria	0
Erysipelas	0
Measles	2
Puerperal Pyrexia...	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0
Jaundice	5

Immunization against Diphtheria during 1945 :-

Completion of course, children under 5 ...	32
" " " " over 5 and under 15...	1
Total	33
Total number of children given a secondary reinforcing injection	39

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pul		Pulmonary		Non-pul	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

There has been no change in the Laboratory facilities, Nursing in the Home and the Isolation Hospital all of which are working satisfactory.

In addition the St. John's & Red Cross were able to start a Town Ambulance service of its own which is able to take patients under doctor's certificate anywhere in England free for subscribers of a small yearly subscription and at a charge of 1/- per mile for non-subscribers. This has been very useful for cases where a short notice can be given. For immediate use in road accidents, etc., the County Ambulance gives a perfectly satisfactory and good service.

HEALTH
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